

Remarks

Claims 1-16 were pending.

Claims 9-13 are presently withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 11-15 are cancelled.

Claims 4, 16 and withdrawn claim 9 are amended.

Claim 17 is new.

The application now contains claims 4, 16, 17 and withdrawn claims 9 and 10.

Claim 4 is amended to be independent.

Withdrawn claim 9 is amended to be dependent on claim 4 and to delete all matter after the phrase "according to claim 4".

Claim 16 is amended to be dependent on claim 4, to include variable X in the definitions beginning with line 2 and to delete the last two lines of the claim.

Support is found in the original claims. Support for new claim 17 can be found in claim 4. No new matter is added.

Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph for confusing use of the phrase "and/or". Claim 1 is cancelled.

Claims 1-8, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph because the Examiner feels that there is insufficient enablement for the convoluted scope of the claims. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 14 and 15 are cancelled and claim 5 has been simplified. Applicants respectfully submit that the instantly amended claims are much more straightforward and that the compounds being claimed encompass a much smaller range of materials. Applicants further respectfully maintain that the instantly claimed compounds are similar to each other and are readily prepared using minor variations of known reactions and the exemplified process.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC 112 first and second paragraph are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that they be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 14-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Kuerfurst CA111:115053 or CA111:232515, Svobodava CA105:160475 and by RN 122504-27-2.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The instant amendments require the presence of at least three optionally substituted terphenyl substituents in a monomeric compound. Applicants respectfully submit that as the cited art fails to provide compounds bearing three such substituents, no anticipation is currently present. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC 102(b) are overcome and kindly ask that they be withdrawn.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Kuerfurst, Svobodava, Marrocco and Wang. Claim 5 is cancelled.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 14-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Ikai, EP 1,202,608.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The instant amendments require the presence of at least three optionally substituted terphenyl substituents on a pyridyl core. Applicants respectfully note that, except for the compound referenced by the Examiner on page 22 of Ikai, all of the compounds of Ikai are substituted by nitrogen containing heterocycles. This compound of page 22 however is a perfluorinated polyaromatic material and is an electron transporting compound deposited as a hole blocking layer, page 21 of Ikai. The compound is not similar electronically to the instant pyridines and the other compounds of Ikai and is used for different purposes. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion in Ikai that the perfluorinated compound, which is well outside of the instant claims, is a substitute for the other nitrogen containing materials of Ikai.

Applicants further respectfully submit that it is clear from Ikai that it is the nitrogen containing heterocycle on the substituents that provides the desired luminescent activity, evidenced by for example compounds b7-b12 of claim 9, wherein the central core of the molecule is a non-conjugated adamantane.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Ikai fails to direct one to the preparation of the instantly claimed compounds and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 14-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Kuerfurst CA111:115053, CA111:232515, Svobodava CA105:160475 and Ikai, EP 1,202,608.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Action states in the bottom paragraph of page 5 of the Action that Ikai evidenced that the presence of three terphenyl groups would not effect luminescent activity. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants note that the only terphenyl compound of Ikai is the perfluorinated compound of page 22 and, as stated above, Ikai does not use this compound in a manner similar to the luminescent materials therein and further, this compound has little in common with the non-fluorinated pyridines of the instant invention. Applicants respectfully maintain that there is no substituent in Ikai that overlaps with the instantly claimed substituents X, W and Y.

Applicants further respectfully submit that it is clear from Ikai that it is the nitrogen containing heterocycle on the substituents that provides the desired luminescent activity, evidenced by for example compounds b7-b12 of claim 9, wherein the central core of the molecule is a non-conjugated adamantane.

Applicants also respectfully maintain that there is no teaching in Kuerfurst or Svobodava that a benzene ring can be replaced with a pyridyl as every luminescent compound in Kuerfurst or Svobodava contain a pyridyl, and there is no teaching in the combined art of Kuerfurst, Svobodava and Ikai of a monomeric tris terphenyl pyridine, nor is there any teaching of a similar tris terphenyl compound, wherein the terphenyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted as in the instant claims, useful as a luminescent material in an EL device.

Applicants respectfully submit that the limitations of the instant claims are not met by the above combination of art, nor is one directed to select or prepare the tris terphenyl pyridines of the instant claims 4, 16 and 17 of the instant invention based on the teachings of the art. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) over Kuerfurst, Svobodava and Ikai are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that the rejections be withdrawn.

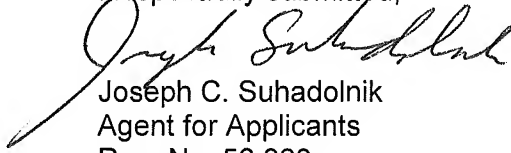
Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections of claims 4, 16 and 17 are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that all rejections be withdrawn and claims 4, 16 and 17 be found allowable.

Applicants further kindly ask that upon finding claims 4, 16 and 17 allowable, that the Examiner rejoin claims 9 and 10, as PCT rules allow for an invention to encompass novel compounds and an application using the compounds, and find them also allowable.

In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,



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